IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application. Cancellation of claims and/or deletion of subject matter from the claims are effected without prejudice:

1.-74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) A process for the microcrystallization of polyols into a polyol composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) spraying a liquid feed of dissolved xylitol and maltitol containing at least 25% by weight of each at the dry solids concentration of 60-90% into contact with a gas suspended dry feed of small crystals containing xylitol and maltitol so as to wet the surface of said dry feed particles with said liquid feed, wherein the ratio of liquid feed to dry feed is between 2:1 and 1:4;

(b) evaporating the solvent of said liquid feed causing microcrystallization of said dissolved xylitol and maltitol on said dry feed particles and drying in the gas suspended state to a free moisture content of 0.5 – 3%; and

(c) conditioning the microcrystallized particles at a temperature of [[65-72 °C]] 40-90°C to provide a solid randomly agglomerated microcrystalline xylitol-maltitol composition with microcrystals of 5- 10 micrometers in size and a free moisture content of 0.05% - 0.5% and melts at about 90 °C,

wherein the ratio of xylitol and maltitol in said feeds being such that the resulting microcrystalline eutectic mixture ~~composition~~ contains from 50% [25%] to 75% by weight of xylitol and from 25% to 50% by weight maltitol;

(d) optionally milling the dried randomly agglomerated microcrystalline polyol composition from step c) to a mean particle size of 0.1 – 0.4 mm.

76. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein said liquid feed comprises a solution containing xylitol and maltitol dissolved in water at a total concentration of about 60-90% on DS.

77. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein said liquid feed comprises separate solutions of xylitol and maltitol dissolved in water, said separate solutions being simultaneously sprayed onto said dry feed particles.

78. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein said liquid feed comprises separate solutions of xylitol and maltitol dissolved in water, said separate solutions being separately and intermittently sprayed onto said dry feed particles.

79. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the dry feed comprises recirculated microcrystallized polyol composition milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 200 μm.

80. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the dry feed comprises recirculated microcrystallized polyol composition milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 100 μm.

81. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the ratio of liquid feed to dry feed is between 1:1 and 1:2 on DS.

82. (New) A process according to any one of Claims 75-81, wherein said liquid feed and/or dry feed contains a minor portion of an excipient, an active or inert ingredient and/or other sweetener than maltitol, xylitol or lactitol.

83. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the dry feed comprises a powder containing core material selected from the group consisting of milled crystals of xylitol and maltitol, milled crystals and/or microcrystals of another polyol, milled crystals, microcrystals and/or powders of other inert or active ingredient(s), said core material being milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 200 μm.

84. (New) A process according to Claim 83, wherein said core material is being milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 100 μm.

85. (New) A process according to Claim 83, wherein said gas suspended particles are retained in a suspended state until they have grown to a predetermined weight.

86. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the microcrystallized particles are collected from the suspended state on a surface to form a porous agglomerated powder layer.

87. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the microcrystallized particles are conditioned at a temperature of about 40-90°C to a free moisture content below 1%.

88. (New) A process according to Claim 75, wherein the microcrystallized particles are conditioned at a temperature of about 67-70°C to a free moisture content below 1%.

89. (New) A process according to Claim 76, wherein the conditioned agglomerated layer is crushed to provide a granular product having a mean granule size of, on an average, 0.05 to 2 mm.

90. (New) A process according to Claim 76, wherein the conditioned agglomerated layer is crushed to provide a granular product having a mean granule size of, on an average, 0.1 to 0.4 mm.